

For Immediate Release
June 27, 2011

Mayor Coleman, Councilmember Paley, South Side Residents Break Ground On New Sidewalks On East Deshler Avenue

Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Council Member Eileen Y. Paley and South Side residents today broke ground on the construction of new sidewalks on both sides of East Deshler Avenue between Lockbourne Road and Fairwood Avenue. The segment of East Deshler Avenue currently has no sidewalks. Today's groundbreaking was held in front of Deshler Park.

"These new sidewalks will allow families who play and relax in Deshler Park to walk safely to and from the park," said Mayor Coleman. "We continue to invest in sidewalks across Columbus to increase pedestrian safety near recreation centers, parks and schools."

The one-half mile of new sidewalks will also give pedestrians a safer path to and from nearby Fairwood Park at the intersection of East Deshler and Fairwood Avenues; a sidewalk is on the east side of Fairwood Avenue in front of Fairwood Park. The East Deshler Avenue sidewalks are part of \$4 million in capital improvement funds the City is investing in pedestrian safety projects, including 9.2 miles of sidewalks.

"This investment in the Deshler Park area will improve the safety of all residents and lead to a stronger neighborhood for decades to come," said Councilmember Paley, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. "Sidewalks help complete a neighborhood, adding value for homeowners while promoting a healthy lifestyle."

The Deshler Avenue sidewalks are scheduled to be completed by mid-September, weather permitting. Other sidewalks to be built by the city in 2011 include:

- Cole Street, between Kelton Avenue and Berkeley Road (currently under construction)
- Cole Street, between Seymour Avenue and Fairwood Avenue (currently under construction)
- Hague Avenue, between Briggs Road and Mound Street
- Kenny Road, between Bricker Boulevard and Ackerman Road
- King Avenue, between city limits east of Andover Road and Westwood Avenue
- Lane Avenue, between Kenny Road and Fyffe Drive (currently under construction)
- Livingston Avenue, between Woodcrest and Lonsdale
- Mooberry Street, between Kelton Avenue and Berkeley Road (currently under construction)
- Mt. Vernon Avenue, between 5th Street and 6th Street
- Nelson Road, between Greenway South and railroad overpass
- Northwest Boulevard, between West 5th Avenue and King Avenue
- Obetz Road, between South High Street and Beth Ann Drive
- Refugee Road, between Hamilton Road and Big Walnut Creek
- Valleyview Road, between Wilson Road and Westmoor Middle School
- East Weber Road, between I-71 and Cleveland Avenue
- West Mound Street, between Brinker Road and Binns Boulevard
- Wilson Road, between Fisher Road and Interchange Road

- Worthington Woods Boulevard, between Sancus Boulevard and Alta View Road

“Sidewalks are critical to our children's safety,” said Columbus Southside Area Commission Chair Jim Griffin. “The Columbus Southside Area Commission fully supports the installation of new sidewalks in the Deshler Park neighborhood. Furthermore, the addition of sidewalks makes our South Columbus neighborhoods more attractive to families and individuals looking for a new place to live.”

Columbus has constructed 67.58 miles of sidewalks since 2000.

The city considers several factors when identifying locations where sidewalks will be constructed, including:

- Is there a school on, or adjacent to, the street
- Is there a recreation center or park on, or adjacent to, the street?
- Are there COTA bus stops on the street?
- Is there a concentration of senior citizen housing on the street?
- Is the street an arterial street, which has larger traffic volumes than residential street?

Department of Public Service information is also available on the department’s Facebook site at www.facebook.com/ColumbusPublicService.